

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02014 121431Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 ERDA-05 AF-06 ARA-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-06 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NASA-01

NEA-09 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CSCE

SUBJ: CBMS: NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS

REF: A) USNATO 1855; B) GENEVA 2429; C) USNATO 1854

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

SUMMARY: DURING APRIL 11 POLADS, DENMARK SWITCH TO A POSITION SUPPORTING GENEVA AS THE BEST PLACE FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON CBMS. THIS SWITCH BROUGHT OTHERS (BELGIUM, UK, NOWEAY, CANADA) INTO THE PRO-GENEVA FOLD, WITH TURKEY AND THE FRG ACCEDING TO THE MAJORITY DECISION. THE NETHERLANDS AND GREECE COMMENTED PESSISTICALLY ON THE PROBABILITY OF ACHIEVING A MEANINGFUL CLARIFICATION OF THE SOVIET "VOLUNTARY BASIS" PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE APRIL 11 POLADS, THE CHAIRMAN (KASTL) REFERRED TO THE APRIL 3 POLADS DISCUSSION OF THE SOVIET "VOLUNTARY BASIS" PROPOSAL (REF A) AND ASKED WHETHER THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE
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PAGE 02 NATO 02014 121431Z

SHOULD CONSIDER THE SUBJECT NOW OR AWAIT FURTHER SOUNDINGS OF THE SOVIET POSITION IN GENEVA. THE NETHERLANDS REP (HORAK) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES DO NOT EXPECT TO OBTAIN MUCH SATISFACTION FROM THE SOVIETS, BUT RATHER EXPECT THEY WILL CON-

TINUE TO BE SMBIGOUS. HE THEREFORE FEARED THE NATO ALLIES MIGHT HAVE TO WAIT A "LONG TIME" FOR A CLEAR SOVIET EXPLANATION OF THEIR PROPOSAL. HE THOUGHT THE NATO ALLIES SHOULD NOW ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHAT PARAMETERS THE SOVIETS CAN BE EXPECTED TO ACCEPT ON A "VOLUNTARY BASIS". THE NETHERLANDS BELIEVES THE PRINCIPLE OF VOLUNTARINESS PREVAILS IN THE CASE OF ALL THE PROVISIONS OF CSCE. THEREFORE, THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THE ALLIES SHOULD SETTLE FOR ONLY A SPECIFIC STATEMENT THAT THE CBMS PROVISION WILL BE ON A "VOLUNTARY BASIS".

2. THE DANISH REP (VILLANDSEN) SIAD THE PREVIOUS WEEKS DISCUSSION HAD BEEN SO UNPROFITABLE AS TO CONVINCE COPENHAGEN THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO TRANSFER CONSIDERATION OF BOTH THE SUBSTANCE AND THE TACTICS OF THE CBMS ISSUE TO THE NATO CAUCUS IN GENEVA. HE THEREFORE "RALLIED" TO THE POSITION OF HIS U.S., GREEK AND PORTUGUESE COLLEAGES. HE SAID THAT THE REGULAR DANISH REP ON THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE (MORCH) HAD BEEN SENT TO GENEVA WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT THE NETHERLANDS AND FRG POSITIONS IN THE NATO CAUCUS. THE BELGIAN REP (BOUCKAERT), SPEAKING ON A PERSONAL BASIS, SAID HE WAS SURE HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD SUPPORT THE LOGIC OF TRANSFERRING ALL DISCUSSION ON CBMS TO GENEVA.

3. THE UK REP (SINTON) SIAD THE UK BELIEVES GENEVA TO BE THE BEST ARENA FOR DISCUSSIONS ON CBMS; HOWEVER, HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD BE WILL TO RETURN THE SUBJECT TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN BRUSSELS SHOULD THE NEED ARISE. HE INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT THE NATO CAUCUS IN GENEVA HAD RECENTLY AGREED ON THE TEXT TO BE USED IN PROBING THE SOVIET POSITION (REF B).

4. THE CHAIRMAN SAW THIS ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NATO CAUCUS IN GENEVA AS REINFORCING THE LOGIC BEHIND TRANSFERRING DISCUSSION ON CBMS TO GENEVA. HE THOUGHT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WOULD ALWAYS BE SLIGHTLY BEHIND ON STEPS TAKEN BY THE NATO CAUCUS IN GENEVA. HE ASKED THE VIEWS OF THOSE DELEGATIONS WHICH HAD EARLIER SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL TO DISCUSS CBMS AT NATO IN BRUSSELS.

5. THE TURKISH REP (ERALP) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES STILL
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PAGE 03 NATO 02014 121431Z

PREFERRED TO DISCUSS CMBS IN BRUSSELS; HOWEVER, SINCE THE MAJORITY NOW PREFERRED GENEVA, THEY WOULD NOT OPPOSE THE TRANSFER OF DISCUSSION TO THE GENEVA FORUM. THE NORWEGIAN REP (SKEIE) CONCURRED IN THE TRANSFER OF THE DISCUSSION TO GENEVA. THE FRG REP (CITRON) JOINED THE MAJORITY POSITION "RELUCTANTLY".

6. THE CANADIANREP (FOWELL) AGREED WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF TRANSFERRING DISCUSSION ON CBMS TO GENEVA. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THE POSSIBLE NEED TO CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF (IMS) AND ASKED WHETHER THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE COULD EXPECT ANY FURTHER DATA ON SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT MANEUVERS FROM THE IMS. THE IMS REP (COL. OGLIARO - ITALY) RESPONDED THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY FURTHER NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF DATA, HIS

LETTER TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF LAST WEEK (REF C) WOULD BE THE FINAL IMS CONTRIBUTION.

7. THE GREEK REP (MALLIKOURTIS) WAS PLEASED THAT THE ISSUE OF CBMS WOULD NOW BE DISCUSSED AT GENEVA. HE WAS ALSO INSTRUCTED TO SAY THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD AGREE WITH ANY POSITION ADOPTED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE ALLIES AT GENEVA. HOWEVER, ATHENS BELIEVES THAT REGARDLESS OF WHERE THE SOVIET "VOLUNARY BASIS" PROPOSAL IS DISCUSSED, THE ALLIES SHOULD SUFFER NO ILLUSION THAT IT IS ANYTHING OTHER THAN A COMPLETELY EMPTY MEASURE DESIGNED TO FURTHER SOVIET PROPAGANDA.

8. MISSION COMMENT: THIS SESSION SEEMS, TO HAVE ENDED POLITICAL COMMITTEE ATTEMPTS TO HOLD SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THE SOVIET "VOLUNARY BASIS" PROPOSAL ON CBMS. MISSION STILL BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS A NEED TO CONFIRM THAT THE EXISTINT DATA ON SOVIET AND WP MANEUVERS IS THE BEST AVAILABLE (REF C).
END COMMENT.BRUCÉ

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